

# THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

## Aruba's first 5-star resort, Ritz-Carlton, opens its doors



Cutting the ribbon



Aerial view



Family pool area

PALM BEACH- The magnitude and impact the Ritz-Carlton is expected to have on Aruba's tourism product, demanded that ten scissors be issued for the international executives and island dignitaries enjoying the honor of cutting the ribbon during the official opening event yesterday morning.

The unveiling of the 320-

room, 5 star luxury resort was tastefully done, a reflection of the understated elegance of the facility. Executive Chairman of Marriott International, Bill Marriott, was on island for the occasion along with President and COO for Ritz-Carlton, Herve Hunter and Marriott International's President for the Caribbean and Latin America Region, Craig Smith. Also

present with his family was Walter Stipa, developer and builder of the facility.

Officially welcoming them to the new resort was General Manager Roberto Gris. He was very pleased to join them, along with Governor Fredis Refunjol, Prime Minister Mike Eman, Minister of Tourism, Transport, Culture and Primary Sector, Otmar Oduber and the President of Parliament Marisol Lopez-Tromp, as they all stepped up to simultaneously cut the ribbon and declare the resort open.

Personally welcoming guests for the opening event, Mr. Bill Marriott elaborated on the hospitality chain's commitment to Aruba. He referred to the environmental curriculum they have tailored to Aruba for 5th and 6th grade primary school students and a program to introduce youth to leadership skills through the Ritz-Carlton "Succeed Through Service" program. "We support the government's vision for a tourism institute that will be a magnet for hospitality professionals hoping to pursue careers in the growing Caribbean and Latin America tourism economy," he told the gathering. He was also very proud of the fact that of their staff of 450 associates staffing the resort, 90% were recruited from the local work force. Combined with Marriott's three other facilities on the island, it makes the hospitality chain Aruba's largest employer.

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## Washington remembers Kennedy at final resting place



Former US Green Beret soldiers salute at the gravesite of former US President John F. Kennedy. (AFP)



AFP photo shows a rose left by family members sitting on top of former U.S. President John F. Kennedy's grave marker. (See story on page 6)

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## Aruba's first 5-star resort, Ritz-Carlton, opens its doors

Continued from page 1



**Marriott President Caribbean and Latin America Craig Smith**



**Ritz Carlton President and COO Herve Hunter**

Prime Minister Eman recalled when he first entered office in 2009, his administration was confronted with a project which had been agreed to by the previous government, and had generated quite some con-

trovery at the time. There was indecision whether it would be in Aruba's best interests. Bill Marriott and come and spoken to him personally, "like a father to a son," assuring him the hospitality chain cherished their relationship with Aruba, and would conform to the new administration's sustainability policies. Seeing the completed facility during its grand opening, he expresses his belief it will be a major asset to Aruba, and conceded to the vision of the former PM who had persisted in seeing the contract signed, Nelson Oduber, as well as then Minister of Infrastructure, Marisol Lopez-Tromp.

Afterwards, invited guests and media were treated to a sumptuous breakfast buffet in the lounge occupying the 7th floor, which is The Club level. This exclusive section has a dedicated concierge, the Ritz Carlton Suite, and absolutely stunning views from the community area and terrace where guests



**Ritz Carlton Aruba GM Roberto Grisi**

can dine and refresh throughout the day.

Many took advantage of the guided tours offered of the resort. They sampled snacks and met the chefs of its three restaurants. Solanio serves breakfast, and Italian cuisine for lunch and dinner. The beach/pool bar features an Argentine wood-fire grill and gourmet snacks. It is open only for lunch. The house haute cuisine restaurant is Les Curstacés, open only for dinner. Their specialty is French seafood showcasing the freshest fish caught and delivered daily by the fishermen working out of the nearby docks.

The resort expects to host their first wedding in two weeks, and they have a conference group taking over the hotel in early January. CMB Bank has scheduled their end of year party in the ballroom.

Some finishing touches are still being put in place. The spa is nearly completed, which will feature treatments based on cactus from Aruba, plus completely separate sections with dedicated relaxation rooms for men and women. The casino is ready with banks of slots and gaming tables.

The Ritz-Carlton signature



**Governor Fredis Refunjol, Bill Marriott and PM Eman**



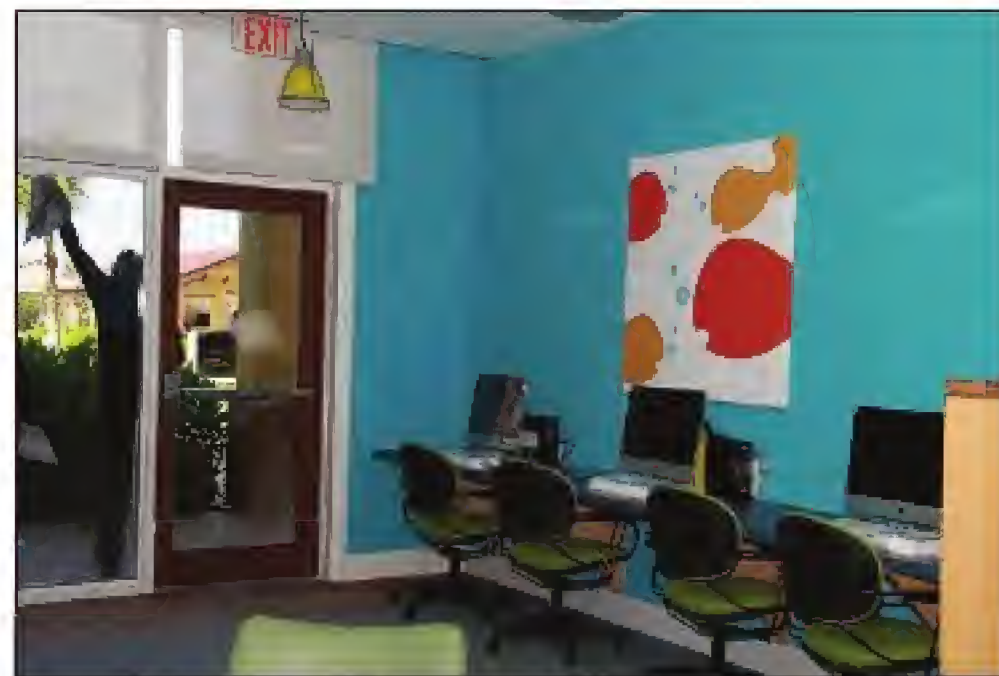
**Standard double occupancy room**

retails shops is up and running. They expect a Chopard store, Little Switzerland, Diamonds International, Tumi Bags, Voukish and Eva Zissu designer beach wear store to

open within the next few months within the shopping arcade off the lobby. Red Sails Sports will have an activities outlet on the ground floor, which is the pool deck level.



**Bill Marriott and Herve Hunter President and COO of Ritz Carlton with PM and Minister Oduber**



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Ask for the Soup of the Day

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## Hospital's Rescue Team in calamity training



ORANJESTAD -- Just recently a very important training took place at the Dr. Horacio E. Oduber Hospital where mem-

bers of the "Hulpverleningsteam" (HVT) - Rescue team of the Hospital did a fire training. Head of the Hospital's security, Hospital Chief Security Milka Schoop explained that this team is a group of volunteers numbering more or less 100 employees. These are persons who take action in the event of a calamity or crisis, such as for example a fire, bomb alert or gas leak. They take action to ensure the safety of patients, visitors and personnel.

Until the experts, such as the Fire Brigade or other organizations arrive, they continue with the necessary process to ensure the safety of everyone.

*Continued on page 5*

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## Pointers to Ponder

Tony A.D. Green [www.people-self-development.com](http://www.people-self-development.com)

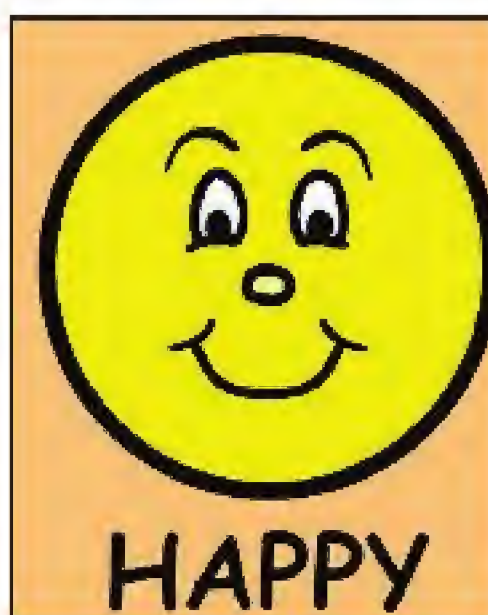
### How Happy are You....can you measure it?



ORANJESTAD -- Of late many researchers are taking the matter of happiness very seriously! The studies are very revealing too. Some studies show that we have some control over how happy we are. My personal conviction, based on my research and encounter with scores of people, tell me that we have control over how happy we are. As a matter of fact, I believe we have more control than we realize. I am totally convinced that happiness is a choice, a conscious choice we must make on a daily basis.

One psychologist believes that our genes decide about 50% of our happiness; issues in our lives that we cannot change such as our facial features. Our health and income level account for 10%. So, according to this psychologist about 40% of our happiness is in our control.

In my view, happiness can be compared to a language. In order to learn a new language



you need to master certain skills. Learning a new language not only requires a set of skills, but also much time and practice. To some people this comes easier than to others. But everybody needs to practice in order to become fluent in the new language. Happiness is just like learning a new language...you need the skills and you need to practice. Your question now is...how do I get the skills and where do I practice? Here are

some tips that may help you.

#### 1. Get involved with other people:

Your happiness will have a lot to do with how involved you are with others. People who live for themselves and refuse to get involved with others can become rather unhappy. How involved are you with others...friends, family, neighbors, colleagues on the job, others? If you are not involved with others on some level or the other, make an effort to get out and be connected. Get out of your secluded house and meet new people, get involved...it will make you happy. Find a club you can join. Find a church with caring people and get involved there.

You may be sending a lot of time on the web, social media, like Face book. You may even have a large friendship list. But that cannot replace the personal involvement with people.

*Continued on page 5*



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## Nissan shows off new GT-R sports car in Tokyo

*The automakers says the hot sports car becomes more sophisticated*



TOKYO -- There's always reason to worry when an automaker takes a hot sports car and promises "a new level of sophistication." That's the case of the Nissan GT-R and the hopes are sure to be that it doesn't translate to being bigger, heavier and less nimble -- all the things a sports car shouldn't be.

The 2015 GT-R, introduced in at the Tokyo Motor Show, will become a more well-rounded car, Nissan promises. It will still offer hot perform-

ance, but will be fun in the mountains, cities and on the interstate.

That having been said, Nissan isn't promising any big engine improvements, or a larger or heavier body. Rather, GT-R gets new tires that are supposed to grip better. The braking and steering have been recalibrated, too, to be a little tighter. There are new LED headlights.

The Nismo GT-R starts rolling off the Japan production line in early 2014.

## Mr. Bill Marriott introduces new Renaissance Aruba guestrooms at official ribbon cutting ceremony



ORANJESTAD -- On November 21, Mr. J.W. "Bill" Marriott, Executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board of Marriott International officiated a ribbon cutting ceremony to introduce the newly redesigned guestrooms at Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino's adults-exclusive Marina Hotel to media and VIP guests. He was joined by General Manager Paul Gielen and Chief Financial Officer Rik Timmer.

The renovation project focuses heavily on evoking a sense of place, playing off the resort's location in the island's cultural center of Oranjestad and incorporating indigenous elements for a result that is distinctly Aruban. All the Marina Hotel's 297 guestrooms now

boast a contemporary residential feel, with design cues referencing that of a custom yacht. Guests will be treated to a soothing palate of rich woods, silvery creams, off whites and splashes of aqua



that balance the natural colors of Aruba's crystal clear sea and sparkling sands.

More than \$35,000 was invested in each room as part of the renovation. In addition to the guestrooms, the Marina Hotel pool deck and Blue Bar, L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop-house, Papagayo Restaurant on Renaissance Aruba's private island and Renaissance Island also underwent significant upgrades.





## Pointers...

Continued from page 3

A recent study revealed that the more time people spend on Face book, the worse they felt. Face book cannot replace the personal encounter with live people.

### II. Give time to healthy habits:

If you take time to train your body, aerobics, running, biking, etc., those practices are also good for your happiness...or at least, they set the stage for your happiness.

People who exercise and sleep enough (6 to 8 hours per night) have a much better sense of well-being than those who don't get a good night's sleep.

Research indicates that exercise can:

- Boost your happiness right away
- Help you feel happier in general if you exercise on a regular basis

Consider going for a walk or bike ride with a friend -- or group of friends -- so you can connect with others while you stay active.

### III. Develop an attitude of gratitude:

Practicing gratitude is one of my favorite instant happiness-boosters. Research supports the idea that regularly feeling grateful can raise your happiness level. Here are some ways to practice gratitude:

- Keep a gratitude journal. Write down the people, events, and things you're grateful to have in your life, and add to the list and review it on a regular basis.

- Take a moment of silence at dinner. Reflect on the food you're about to eat and the other ways that your needs are being met...thank God for what you have to eat!

- Make an effort to feel grateful. Think of a variety of things, rather than just the same one over and over.

- Thank God for the air your breath, for your very existence...and all the other favors we receive every day!

Choose to be happy, no matter what your circumstances are. Don't allow what happens to you (externally) to determine your level of happiness. Happiness should not depend on what happens to you, but rather on an inner quality of your life.

These are some of the skills you need to become proficient in this 'new language.' You can become proficient if you are willing to practice, practice and practice. Happiness is not some illusive impossibility...everybody can choose to be happy...You too! Trust in God is the ultimate source of happiness!

*If this was helpful, feel free to let me know at [tonygreen.morningnews@hotmail.com](mailto:tonygreen.morningnews@hotmail.com)*

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## Hospital's Rescue Team in calamity training

Continued from page 3

Last week, the specialist in HVT training, Sjaak Koeten of the S.O.T.U. Company (Special Operation Training Unit) trained a group of volunteers to review all the aspects and details in the area of combating a fire. According to Koeten, the Hospital's team functioned fantastically. That action is taken rapidly, is critically important for an institution such

as the Hospital to ensure the continuity of Hospital activities. Aside to fighting fires, the rescue Team also trains for personal security and to relocate persons from one department or section, as well as the entire Hospital and to care for the wounded.

In addition to calamity, the HVT also acts in the event a visitor acts in any form that

could be a breach of security or danger to persons or property. They know the Hospital premises well and know how to communicate with the Fire Brigade, Ambulance and Police.

This HVT was established seven years ago. The volunteers participate in periodic training to guarantee the safety of patients, visitors and their

colleagues in the event of any calamity. The Hospital is very proud and pleased with this group consisting of nurses, administration, security and people from other departments.

The Hospital ensures that their staff is well trained, according to Schoop. There is also a "Basic Life Support" program in place for all employees of each department.



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## Russia grants bail to all but one US marks 50th anniversary of JFK assassination

SAINT PETERSBURG (AFP) - Russia yesterday granted bail to all but one of 30 Greenpeace crew members detained over an Arctic oil protest, but dismissed a UN court ruling that they should be allowed to leave the country.

Courts in Saint Petersburg have now ordered the release of 29 of the Arctic Sunrise ship's crew, 28 of whom have been freed already, while one Australian activist had his detention extended until February.

The move came just before an international maritime court ordered Russia to release the Dutch-flagged vessel and its crew on payment of a 3.6-million-euro (\$4.9 million) bond.

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, based in the German port city of Ham-

burg, also ordered Moscow to allow the detainees to leave the country on receipt of the bond.

Greenpeace International executive director Kumi Naidoo welcomed the ruling, calling it "a historic day."

Naidoo said the activists should be allowed to leave Russia immediately.

"This tribunal has clearly stated that all 30 should be free to leave Russia until the arbitral proceedings have been concluded," he said.

But the Russian foreign ministry responded dismissively, saying in a statement that the case "does not fall under the jurisdiction of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea." The ministry said however that it would "definitely study the decision."

Russia said it did not take

part in the proceedings because it does not view the case brought by the Netherlands as a maritime border dispute between the two countries.

The Hamburg tribunal's judgements are binding but if not complied with, the court has no other means of enforcing them, a court spokeswoman said.

The Russian authorities agreed to free the activists after Greenpeace paid a bail sum of two million rubles (\$60,750) for each.

The crew members still face jail terms of up to seven years if found guilty of hooliganism.

Greenpeace said the foreigners in the group were staying in Saint Petersburg for the moment. Of the 30 detained, 26 are foreign nationals.

DALLAS (AFP) - With flags fluttering at half-staff, the United States paused yesterday to mourn President John F. Kennedy and a generation's shattered dreams, cut down 50 years ago by an assassin's bullet.

The young leader's brutal death, a dark turning point even in an era gripped by the Cold War nuclear stand-off and bloodshed in the jungles of Vietnam, shocked a global audience of millions.

Five decades on the wound is still raw, with many still obsessed by the conspiracy theories surrounding his death, and others gnawed by regret for the America they imagine might have been.

Across the nation, at ceremonies large and small, many took comfort in reflecting upon the words of a charismatic man whose soaring rhetoric and call to service continues to inspire.

"Today, we honor his memory and celebrate his enduring imprint on American history," President Barack Obama declared.

Church bells rang out in Dallas as thousands of mourners observed a moment of silence marking the moment shots rang out from the Texas School Book Depository overlooking Dealey Plaza.

Across the Atlantic too, Kennedy was remembered.

A wreath-laying ceremony was planned in the Berlin neighborhood where Kennedy gave his famed Cold War-era "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech to a rapturous crowd.

At Kennedy's tomb in Arlington Cemetery outside Washington, two kilted pipers from the Black Watch of the British army repeated a tribute their regiment had performed at his funeral 50 years ago.

In a proclamation ordering flags be lowered at government buildings and even private homes, Obama recalled

Kennedy's leadership in the Cuban missile crisis, his speech in Berlin and his drive to advance the rights of African Americans and women.

"Today and in the decades to come, let us carry his legacy forward," Obama wrote Thursday. "Let us face today's tests by beckoning the spirit he embodied -- that fearless, resilient, uniquely American character that has always driven our nation to defy the odds, write our own destiny, and make the world anew."

In Arlington, a steady stream of mourners visited Kennedy's grave, including his last remaining sibling Jean Kennedy Smith.

Kennedy's voice still echoes through history to so many Americans. "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country," he urged Americans at his inaugural address on January 20, 1961.

Cut down in his first term at the age of 46 as he was driven through Dallas, Texas in an open-top limousine on November 22, 1963, Kennedy's unfulfilled promise has become a symbol of the lost nobility of politics.

Despite the many scandals that have since become attached to his name, he is seen as a president who enlisted the nation in lofty goals -- like putting a man on the Moon -- "not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

Kennedy was the fourth US president to be killed in office, but the first whose death was caught on film. News of his death flashed around the world by television, helping enshrine the new medium at the heart of the homes off awe-struck families.

The crime - and the image of blood splattered on the pink suit of his glamorous wife Jackie - stunned the world.

## UN refugee chief urges EU-wide effort for Syrians

SOFIA (AFP) - UN refugee chief Antonio Guterres yesterday called for the European Union to step up support for countries like Bulgaria coping with an influx of Syrian

refugees living in overcrowded camps.

The EU needs to mobilise and show "solidarity ... especially when some countries like Bulgaria have more lim-

ited resources and are at the external border of the union," Guterres told journalists after visiting a refugee camp in Sofia with EU humanitarian aid commissioner Kristalina Georgieva.

Bulgaria, the bloc's poorest member, has been completely overwhelmed by the arrival this year of almost 10,000 refugees -- 60 percent of them Syrian -- crossing over illegally from Turkey.

Appalling conditions in overcrowded shelters at the start of winter and a backlog of humanitarian status claims have prompted the Bulgarian government to demand European help, including the possibility of moving refugees to other states.

Bulgaria started turning non-Syrian refugees back at the border this month and plans to build a 30-kilometre (20-mile) fence in one area.



Rescuers search for survivors at the scene where the Maxima supermarket roof collapsed in Riga yesterday, leaving 51 dead in one of Europe's worst such disasters in decades. Around 40 others injured when the roof of a supermarket collapsed a day earlier in a suburb of Latvia's capital Riga, emergency services said. (AFP PHOTO)



## UK 'slave' women 'beaten, brainwashed' in 30-year ordeal

LONDON (AFP) - Three women held captive in a London house for 30 years were beaten and brainwashed, police said Friday, as Britain struggled to comprehend its worst case of modern-day slavery.

Commander Steve Rodhouse of Scotland Yard police said detectives were trying to understand the "invisible handcuffs" used to control the women, including a 30-year-old who had spent her entire life in servitude.

"What we have uncovered so far is a complicated and disturbing picture of emotional control over many years," Rodhouse told reporters.

"Brainwashing would be a simple term but I think that belittles the years of emotional abuse these victims have had to endure."

He also revealed that the two suspects in the case, a man and a woman both aged 67 who were arrested at a house in south London on Thursday, had been detained before, in the 1970s, but gave no further details.

Accused of involvement in forced labour and domestic servitude, as well as immigration offences, the pair -- who are both foreign nationals --

have been bailed until January pending further investigations.

Their passports have been confiscated and they are not allowed to return to the house.

The women were rescued on October 25, one week after first making secret telephone contact with a charity.

They are a 69-year-old Malaysian, a 57-year-old from Ireland and the 30-year-old Briton.

Detectives do not believe the women were sexually exploited or had been the victims of human trafficking, but they have reported what they called "beatings".

Explaining the gap between the liberation of the women and the arrests of the two suspects, police said they had to be patient in trying to understand the women's accounts.

In Thursday's raid in the borough of Lambeth, the suspects' address was searched for 12 hours. Some 55 bags of evidence were seized, amounting to more than 2,500 exhibits.

All 37 officers in Scotland Yard's Human Trafficking Unit (HTU) -- which deals with modern-day slavery cases -- are working on the investigation.

Specially-trained officers are working with the women to try and understand their lives.

### Restored Saint Priscilla catacombs



ROME (AFP) - Press members conduct an interview at the museum of the Saint Priscilla catacombs in Rome. The underground tunnels that run underneath San Silvestro Basilica have undergone a series of restoration works by the Pontifical Commission of Sacred Archaeology. The series of catacombs used by early Christians in Rome was unveiled after a major restoration, including an online virtual tour by Google Maps offering a glimpse into the underground wonders. The Priscilla catacombs where Christians worshipped and buried their own. A new function on Google Maps allows users to take a limited tour of the vast complex under Rome's Villa Ada park and gaze at the interiors with a 360-degree view like the one used above-ground for Street View. A new museum on the site also opening to the public brings together some 700 fragments of finely-sculpted sarcophaguses found in the catacombs, which combine pagan and Christian burial traditions. The Priscilla catacombs, which date back nearly 2,000 years and were built inside what used to be a quarry, are considered the most interesting in Rome and include a basilica where pope Sylvester (314-335) is buried.

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## Philippine typhoon death toll surpasses 5,200: govt

MANILA (AFP) - The number of people confirmed killed when a super typhoon devastated the Philippines surpassed 5,200 on Friday, the government said, making it one of the country's deadliest natural disasters.

The official death toll from the storm jumped by nearly 1,200 to 5,209, with another 1,611 people still missing, the spokesman for the government's disaster management council, Reynaldo Balido, told AFP.

Super Typhoon Haiyan flattened dozens of towns across the central Philippines on November 8, bringing some of the strongest winds ever recorded and generating tsunami-like storm surges.

Balido said the death toll rose sharply on Friday, increasing from 4,015, after officials reported body counts from communities outside the worst-hit areas.

"If you notice, there was not much movement in the death toll for the past few days. This was because the reporting rules



required a casualty report signed by the city mayor and his health officer," he said.

The Philippines endures a seemingly never-ending pattern of deadly typhoons, earthquakes, volcano eruptions and other natural disasters.

It is located along a typhoon belt and the so-called Ring of Fire, a vast Pacific Ocean region where many of Earth's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.

But Haiyan now stands as one of the deadliest natural disasters ever recorded in the country, and the worst typhoon.

The disaster has triggered a giant, international relief effort, with dozens of countries and relief organisations rushing to deliver food, water and health services to isolated communities.



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## Rich countries hit brake for health spending: OECD

PARIS (AFP) - A third of the world's rich countries cut health spending between 2009 and 2011, according to a probe of 33 advanced economies published on Thursday.

Per-capita spending on health fell in 11 of these countries, notably by 11.1 percent in Greece and 6.6 percent in Ireland, while growth in spending slowed in others, including Canada (0.8 percent) and the United States (1.3 percent).

Just two countries -- Israel and South Korea -- saw an acceleration in the growth of health spending, compared with the previous decade, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said.

The report blamed budget cuts in austerity-hit countries for the drop in healthcare spending.

Main targets for spending restrictions were cutting prices of medicines, limiting wages in hospitals and scaling back budgets for prevention programmes, it said.

The report added that for the first time, the average life expectancy across the OECD exceeded 80 years -- an increase of a decade from 1970 to 2011.

But it also pointed to the widening prevalence of diabetes, obesity and dementia in the rich world.

"In 2011, close to seven per-

cent of 20-79-year-olds in OECD countries, or close to 85 million people, had diabetes," said the report, entitled "Health At A Glance 2013."

"This number is likely to increase in the years ahead, given the high and often growing rates of obesity across the developed world."

## Brazil reports 573 deaths from dengue this year

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - At least 573 people have died from dengue in Brazil so far this year, nearly twice the figure reported in 2012, according to official figures released.

Last year, 292 deaths were recorded and 473 in 2011, according to the health ministry.

The highest death toll was in the southeastern state of Minas Gerais.



**Please remember to check your breasts every month**

The report also noted a burden from out-of-pocket health spending in some countries.

"On average in the OECD, 20 percent of health spending is paid directly by patients; this ranges from less than 10 percent in the Netherlands and France to over 35 percent in Chile, (South) Korea and Mexico."

The total number of serious cases reported so far this year reached 6,566, leading authorities in 157 cities to declare a state of alert, including in Rio, Manaus, Salvador and Fortaleza, host cities for next year's World Cup.

Brazil is frequently afflicted with the disease, which is caused by four strains the virus that are spread by the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*.

Dengue affects between 50 and 100 million people in the tropics and subtropics each year, causing fever, muscle and joint ache as well as potentially fatal dengue hemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome.

There is no vaccine, which is why scientists are focusing so intensely on mosquito control.

But last month, Brazilian scientists began clinical tests on humans of a new vaccine against the four strains of the dengue virus.

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## Let's Be Dengue Free



## 'Dead' baby wakes at China funeral parlour before cremation



BEIJING (AFP) - A Chinese baby boy who had been declared dead was saved from being cremated alive when he started crying at a funeral parlour, media reported Thursday.

The parents of the critically-ill boy, who was less than one month old, had agreed to end his medical treatment at Anhui Provincial Children's Hospital in eastern China, hospital sources told Xinhua state news agency.

A death certificate was issued before the baby was sent to a funeral parlour in Hefei, the provincial capital -- only for staff there to be alerted by crying on Wednesday.

It was unclear how long he had been at the funeral parlour, or when his cremation had

been due.

The baby was immediately sent back to the hospital, several news outlets including the Beijing News reported.

"Because the baby still had life signs, we continued to give him transfusion to maintain his life for humanitarian reasons," a hospital staff member told Xinhua.

The baby was born with a "congenital respiratory system malformation", the report added.

The baby was receiving treatment at the hospital late Wednesday, reports said.

A doctor was suspended, a nursing worker laid off and an investigation launched into the incident, the hospital said, according to Xinhua.



## Boxing: Pac-Man's career on the line against Rios



MACAO (AFP) - Filipino great Manny Pacquiao will need to shrug off the distractions of a deadly typhoon and a physical clash involving his trainer as he heads into a make-or-break comeback fight against Brandon Rios.

The only man to have won world titles at eight different weights knows his career is on the line as he returns to the ring in Macau, just days away from his 35th birthday.

It is almost a year since Pacquiao was knocked cold by Mexican arch-rival Juan Manuel Marquez, a defeat that came six months after a controversial split decision defeat to American Timothy Bradley.

A third loss in a row, in the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) International welterweight title clash with America's Rios and talk of his retirement would amplify into a roar.

Yet just 18 months ago, 'Pac-Man' was revered by many as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, having only lost once in 31 fights dating back to 1999.

Trainer Freddie Roach has admitted that if Pacquiao loses badly to Rios, a former lightweight world champion, he would have no hesitation in telling him to retire.

But defeat is the last thing on the mind of Pacquiao, who has a record of 54 wins, five defeats and two draws, with 38 KOs in a professional career spanning almost 19 years.

"Brandon Rios says he's hungry to win this fight and I also say I'm hungry to win this fight because I've lost twice last year," Pacquiao said.

However, the final days of Pacquiao's build-up have been anything but smooth after Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines, leaving about 5,500 people dead or missing.

Pacquiao's training base in General Santos City escaped the storm but the Filipino congressman had to be talked out of interrupting his preparations

to visit the disaster area.

"I'm doing my best to win this fight and give a good fight, especially with what happened to my countrymen," he said.

"To all the people and the families who have been affected by this storm, the typhoon -- this fight is for you."

Pacquiao was also unimpressed by a bust-up between Roach and Rios's camp, which ended with conditioning coach Alex Ariza kicking the 53-year-old Parkinson's disease-sufferer in the chest.

As cameras rolled for a reality TV show, the two sides were heard hurling racial and homophobic insults and a torrent of expletives, while Ariza mocked Roach's slurred speech.

"All I can say is both teams prepared for this fight. Let this finish in the ring and not in trash talk before the fight," said Pacquiao.

Although Roach says Pacquiao's intense eight-week training camp has put the 10-time world champion in his best shape for years, the ebullient Rios is confident.

"This is the best shape I have ever been," said the 27-year-old, who has a 31-1-1 record but has never boxed at welterweight, or fought anyone of Pacquiao's pedigree.

"I'm nobody's tune-up fight," added Rios. "I'm nobody's punching bag -- a punching bag don't punch back. Sunday, you're going to find out I'm not going to stop. I'm a monster when I get in that ring."

Rios, who at five feet eight inches is nearly two inches taller than Pacquiao, is also unfazed by stepping up two weight divisions and 12 pounds in the past 18 months, saying 147 pounds is a "natural weight" for him.

Win, and Pacquiao will seek a re-match with Marquez ahead of the dream meeting with Floyd Mayweather that fight fans have longed to see. Lose, and the end of his career draws nearer.



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## Harry Potter stamps rattle US philatelists

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The loss-making US Postal Service (USPS) introduced Harry Potter stamps delighting fans of the fictional boy wizard but angering some philatelists who complain he's not American. The limited edition of 20 stamps feature images of Scottish author J.K. Rowling's best-selling character "with the friends, heroes, villains and creatures that make up his world," said USPS in a statement. Sales can only help the bottom line at USPS, which last week said it lost \$5 billion in the fiscal year ending September 30.







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## Stunning meteorite sheds light on infant Mars



PARIS (AFP) - A meteorite found in the Sahara last year by Bedouin tribesmen is a rock from Mars, revealing that the Red Planet's crust formed 4.4 billion years ago, scientists reported.

Sold to the elite club of meteorite collectors, the extraordinary rock has been analysed by US and French geologists.

They found tough crystals within the meteorite called zircons, which held traces of uranium, whose rate of decay can be used as a calculator of age.

The dating puts the meteorite at a whopping 4.4 billion years old.

The rock, measuring 40 millimetres (1.5 inches) across and weighing 84 grammes (2.9 ounces), carries the official designation of NWA 7533, with the letters NWA meaning North West Africa, where it was found.

It was found near Bir Anzarane, in southern Morocco.

It has a sister, an even more famous stone called NWA 7034, that has been called "Black Beauty" -- its dark surface indicating a volcanic basalt origin.

## Internet founder warns growing surveillance 'threatens democracy'

LONDON (AFP) - The growing surveillance and censorship of the Internet "threatens the future of democracy", the inventor of the world wide web said on Friday.

Tim Berners-Lee was speaking at the launch of his World Wide Web Foundation's second annual index measuring the Internet's contribution to social, economic and political development and human rights.

"One of the most encouraging findings of this year's Web Index is how the web and social media are increasingly spurring people to organise,

take action and try to expose wrongdoing in every region of the world," said Berners-Lee.

In 80 percent of the 81 countries surveyed, the Internet and social media played a role in public mobilisation in the last year, the foundation said.

"But some governments are threatened by this, and a growing tide of surveillance and censorship now threatens the future of democracy," Berners-Lee said.

"Bold steps are needed now to protect our fundamental rights to privacy and freedom of opinion and association on-

line."

Developing countries are most likely to block and filter online communications, but leaks from fugitive US analyst Edward Snowden revealed that developed countries are more likely to spy on the web, the foundation said.

China, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are among the worst offenders for censoring politically-sensitive web content and having inadequate safeguards against government surveillance, the report said.

But the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and India were

listed alongside Mali, Yemen and Kenya as having "inadequate" safeguards against government spying.

Sweden topped the overall Web Index for developed countries for the second year running, largely because of the widespread penetration of broadband, followed by Norway, Britain, the United States and New Zealand.

Mexico topped the list of emerging market countries, followed by Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica and South Africa, while the Philippines was number one among developing nations followed by Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco and Ghana.

**HIGH POINT** - If you look closely and are up before sunrise, you may be able to see the comet ISON as it moves toward the sun. A High Point University professor and two students are studying the comet for a class research project. On Thanksgiving Day, the comet will make its closest approach to the sun, and if it survives, will become much brighter and more visible to the naked eye in early December, fading quickly below naked-eye brightness around Christmas. Dr. Brad Barlow, assistant professor of astrophysics, and freshmen Aaron Marlowe and Sam Gordon have been observing the comet for several weeks using the robotic PROMPT telescopes in Chile. Depending on whether the comet remains intact as it approaches the sun, ISON has the potential to be one of the brightest comets visible in several years.




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## Disgraced Co-op bank chief arrested in drugs probe

LONDON (AFP) - Police on Friday said they had arrested the ex-chairman of Britain's Co-operative Bank in a probe over "drug supply", as the ethical lender finds itself dragged into a political row.

The Treasury meanwhile said it was ordering an independent inquiry into events at Co-op Bank in the wake of damaging allegations surrounding former chairman Paul Flowers, a 63-year-old church minister, coming also amid a dire financial situation at the lender.

Flowers was filmed talking about buying crystal meth, crack cocaine and ketamine by The Mail on Sunday newspaper in allegations published last weekend.

Flowers, also a former local councillor for the opposition Labour Party, has since apologised -- leading to his subsequent suspension from the Methodist Church and Labour.

A police statement released Friday said officers had on Thursday "arrested a 63-year-old man... in connection with an ongoing drug supply investigation". British media widely reported the person to be Flowers.

He was released on unconditional bail on Friday and must return to a police station in the New Year. Police did not specify when.

Also on Friday, the Treasury said that finance minister George Osborne will "order an independent investigation into events at the Co-op Bank and the circumstances surrounding them".

It confirms a statement on Thursday by Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron, who said he would order an inquiry into the finances of the bank, which faces a big recapitalisation to cover bad loans and the costs of a failed expansion plan.

Britain's financial regulators on Friday added that they were considering their own separate probes in the Co-op.

Reverend Flowers was chairman of the Co-operative Bank -- which prides itself on ethical investments -- from 2010 until June earlier this year.

Flowers has meanwhile been engulfed in a highly damaging series of allegations over illegal drug use, sex with male prostitutes, drink-driving and questions over his expense claims while working for a drugs charity.

The allegations and the arrest of Flowers further damages the reputation of the Co-op just weeks after it unveiled a drastic restructuring that will hand control to US hedge funds in order to plug a £1.5-billion (\$2.4-billion, 1.8-billion-euro) hole.

The BBC on Friday reported that Flowers -- who was paid £132,000 a year -- resigned from the Co-op in June after being confronted by "lavish" expense claims, and growing doubts over his competence.

## Consortia pay \$9 bn for Brazil airport rights

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Airport operators from Singapore, Germany, Switzerland partnering with Brazilian firms on Friday won rights to run airports in Rio and Belo Horizonte, two host cities of the 2014 World Cup.

One consortium including engineering firm Odebrecht and Singapore airport operator Changi paid 19 billion reais (\$8.24 billion) for a 25-year concession to run Rio's Galeao airport at an auction held at the Sao Paulo stock exchange.

A second consortium including Brazil's biggest highway operator CCR in partnership with Germany's Flughafen Munchen, operator of Munich airport, and Switzerland's Flughafen Zurich paid 1.8 billion reais (\$780 million) for a 30-year concession at Belo Horizonte's Confins airport.

Minimum bids for the auction organized by the National Civil Aviation Agency was 4.8 billion reais (\$2.1 billion) for Galeao airport, the country's second busiest, and 1.09 billion reais (\$490 million) for Belo Horizonte's Confins airport.

It was Brazil's third round of airport privatization.

The first occurred in 2011 with the privatization of Sao Goncalo do Amarante airport in Rio Grande do Norte.



GALEAO

Last year, 20-year concessions valued at a total of \$14 billion were granted to manage three airports: two in Sao Paulo and one in Brasilia, breaking the monopoly of Infraero, the federal agency that runs more than 70 airports.

The auctions are part of the government's efforts to modernize the country's aging and congested airports in preparation for the tens of thousands of tourists expected for next year's World Cup and the 2016 Rio summer Olympics.

Galeao, which currently handles 17.5 million passengers annually, is projected to receive 60 million at the end of the concession period in 2038.

Confins, which handles 10.5 million passengers a year, is projected to have 43 million a year by 2043.

The government said it anticipates total investments of 12.9 billion (\$5.6 billion) during the 25-year concession for Galeao and of 5.1 billion reais (\$2.4 billion) for the 30-year concession for Confins.

Contracts for the two airports are to be signed next March, only four months before the World Cup is due to kick off in Sao Paulo.

Thais Heredia, a columnist for the daily O Globo, complained that the privatization of Galeao came so late that "the airport renovation may be completed in time for the 2016 Summer Olympics but not for the World Cup."

According to a recent Infraero survey, construction delays are plaguing work at seven of the 12 Brazilian cities that will host the World Cup from next June.

The worst delay was reported to be in the southern city of Porto Alegre, where work on expanding terminal at a cost of \$69 million has not even begun.

## Minister refuses to hand over shale gas report papers

THE HAGUE - Economic affairs minister Henk Kamp is refusing to publish a concept report on the risks attached to drilling for shale gas in the Netherlands, says environmental group Milieudefensie.

The minister is also keeping correspondence between his department and the researchers about the report confidential, the organisation says.

The organisation thinks it likely the minister pressurised civil engineering company Witteveen + Bos to temper its conclusions. "We are curious as to why the concept versions

are being kept secret," a Milieudefensie spokesman said.

Milieudefensie is trying to access the documents using freedom of information legislation.

Of the 125 documents the group wants to access, 110 remain confidential.

The final report, published in September, concluded the risks attached to extracting shale gas are manageable. It has also been criticised for simply assessing current literature and not looking at the actual situation in the Netherlands.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

P	O	E	M	S		O	F	F		
A	L	I	B	I		C	R	I	E	R
G	I	L	A	S		T	U	N	E	R
E	V	E				L	A	G	E	R
D	I	E				T	O	G	A	
	A	N	N	A	P	O	L	I	S	
		A	M	E	N				N	O
T	U	L	I	P	S				D	O
A	P	P	L	E		F	A	U	N	A
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	A	D	S			B	E	E	R	S



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Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.71
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.92
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	197.09
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	243.18
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.60
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	32.84
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	29.89
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	177.84
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# COMICS

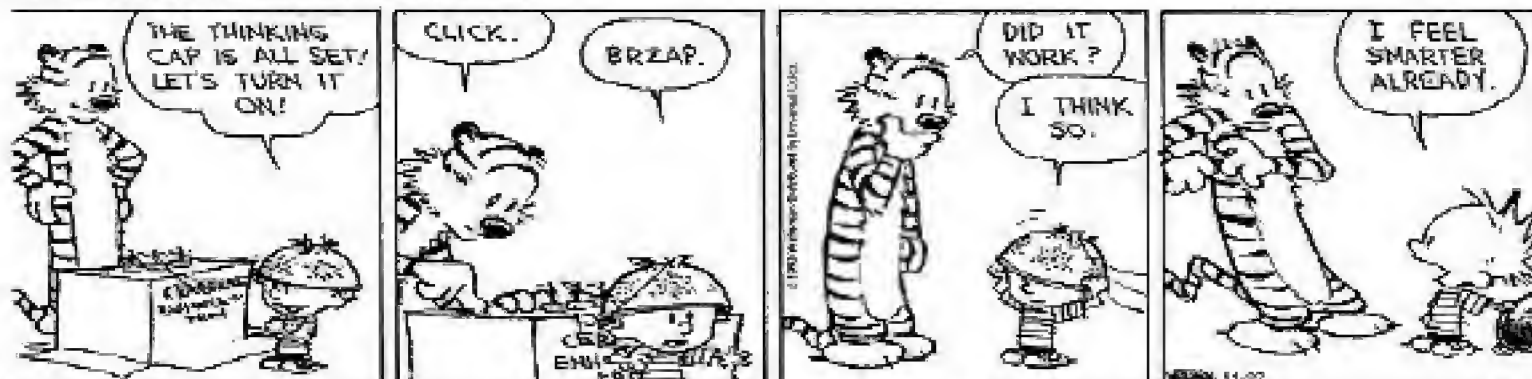
## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



# CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Woeful cry
- 5 "Kinder-garten \_\_\_\_"
- 8 Angry growl
- 9 Perlman of "Cheers"
- 11 Disaster
- 12 Rustic getaway spots
- 13 Family \_\_\_\_ room
- 14 Order at an Italian eatery
- 16 Hertz's competitor
- 18 Mommy's three
- 19 Gossiping busybody
- 21 "Beer Barrel \_\_\_\_"
- 25 Model Carol
- 27 Carpenter's need
- 28 Shade of red
- 32 French article
- 33 Chimney sweep's problem

### 34 Accolades

- 36 Diarist Frank
- 37 Every story has two
- 38 Always, poetically
- 39 British school

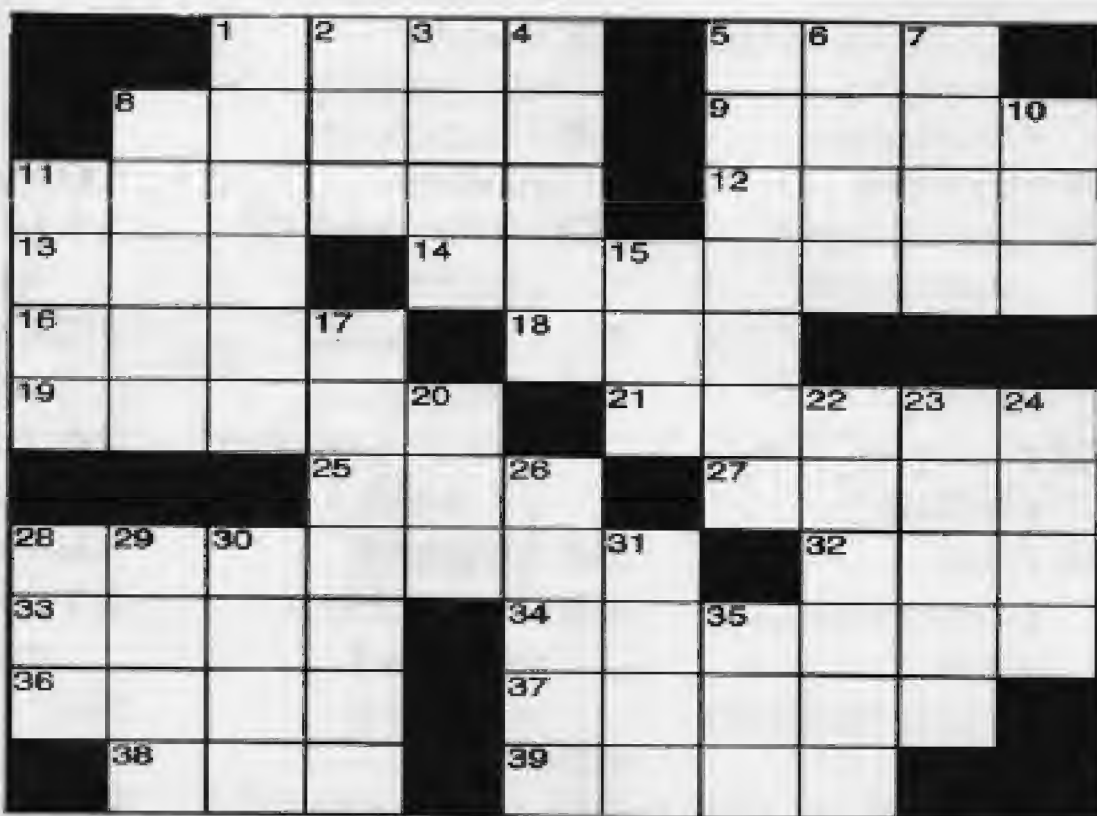
### DOWN

- 1 Tylenol alternative
- 2 "Viva \_\_\_\_ Vegas"
- 3 Circle sections
- 4 Skier's incline

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- 5 The \_\_\_\_ Tide (Alabama)
- 6 Cry of dismay (2 wds.)
- 7 Actor Sean
- 8 Colander
- 10 "\_\_\_\_ was saying..." (2 wds.)
- 11 Wear out
- 15 Ref's kin
- 17 Racing official
- 20 "\_\_\_\_ Night Long"

- 22 Bacall of film
- 23 Varieties
- 24 Malt brews
- 26 Heighten hair
- 28 Govt. agcy.
- 29 Ice cream holder
- 30 First class (2 wds.)
- 31 Twerp
- 35 Confusion



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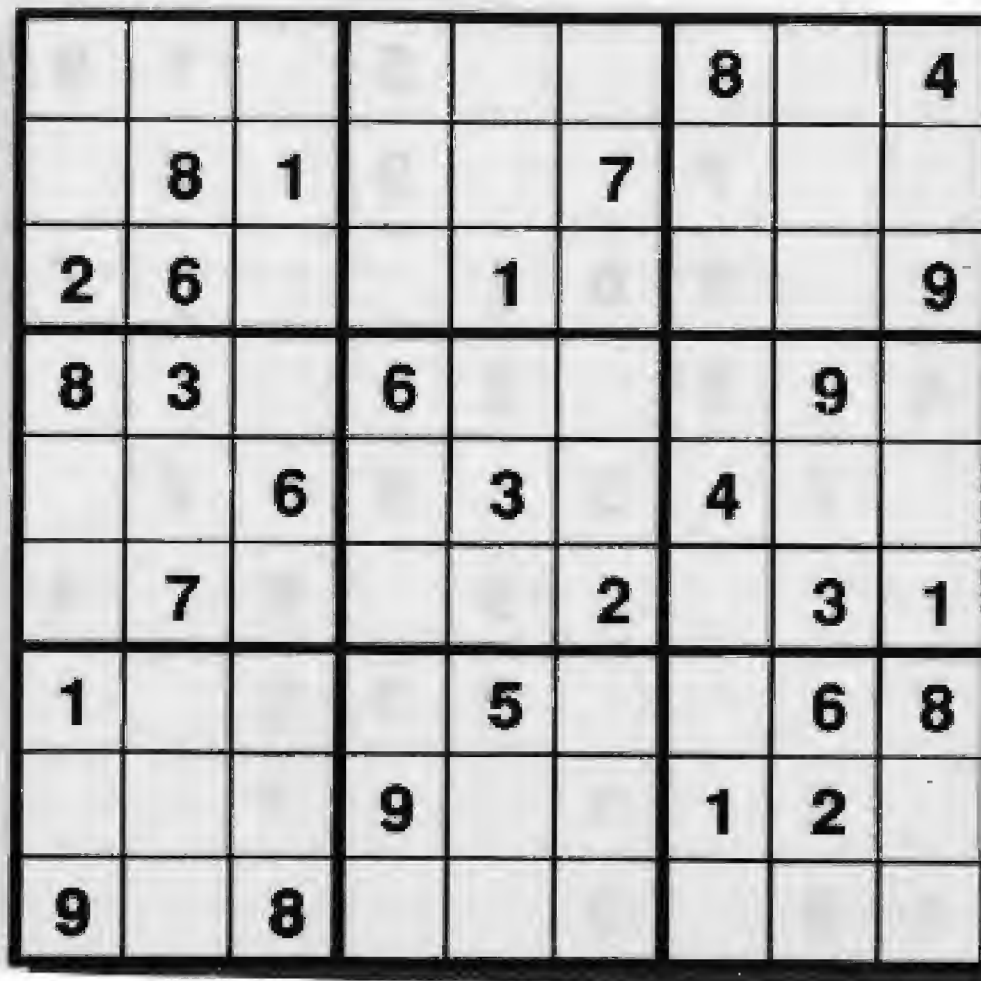
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# Sudoku



### SOLUTION

8	9	2	6	3	1	5	4	7
9	2	1	8	2	8	6	7	9
8	9	6	7	5	6	2	2	1
1	8	9	2	8	5	8	2	7
2	9	7	6	8	2	9	1	5
2	8	9	1	7	9	2	6	8
6	2	8	5	1	9	7	8	2
9	5	2	2	8	7	1	8	6
7	1	8	6	8	2	5	6	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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maintain. It is only three stories and twenty luxurious units, of which 14 will be oceanfront, the remainder, ocean view. Sizes range from one bedroom condominiums with a bath and a half to three-bedrooms, each bedroom with its own bath, and an additional guest half/bath. The designs include a family entertainment room that will

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services, lounge area, BBQ station, fitness room, assigned parking, additional outside storage for bicycles and personal items, and 24-hour security. A quiet, secluded section of Eagle beach is only a few steps from the front door.

O Condominiums officially opened the doors of their sales office onsite at Eagle Beach on December 24. Interested parties can inspect the project in a spacious plot right next to the gourmet Screaming Eagle restaurant. The project is directed towards discerning clients seeking a top quality property on Aruba in an ideal, tranquil, beachfront location. Prospective property owners will find the Cas Bon people enjoy an exceptional reputation on Aruba for excellence and reliability.

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The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations. As Varela says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen.

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

**Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen**

queensaruba.com/. Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

**The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining.**



## NFL: Superstar QBs to duel in Broncos-Pats clash



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Superstar quarterbacks Peyton Manning and Tom Brady square off Sunday when Manning leads Denver into New England in an NFL clash that could see Broncos receiver Wes Welker facing his old team.

"It's always a great matchup," Broncos interim head coach Jack Del Rio said of the Manning-Brady duel. "You're talking about two of the premier quarterbacks in the league."

Brady has the best winning percentage in the NFL's modern era and is at plus-101 for his career (143-42) while Manning is third overall in winning percentage and plus-92 (163-71).

Manning has the Broncos playing at a high level this season and Denver will be eager to build on their 27-17 victory over Kansas City last week. They handed the Chiefs their first defeat of the season and the two teams are now neck-and-neck atop the AFC West division at 9-1.

Manning played on a sore ankle against the Chiefs but completed 24-of-40 passes for 333 yards and wasn't sacked once by a Chiefs defense that went into the contest leading the league in sacks.

Welker left the game in the fourth quarter with a concussion, but was back at practice on Wednesday in a sign that he could be cleared to play against a team where he was Brady's top target for six seasons.

Welker notched 672 receptions and 37 touchdowns playing for New England, reaching the 1,000-yard plateau in five seasons.

"He's a tough guy so he's played through everything," Brady said of his former teammate. "This is a big game for both teams so you have to expect their best players. I'm sure all

those guys will be ready to go."

Welker has slotted smoothly into the Broncos offense and has 61 receptions for 648 yards.

"Wes has a great work ethic and he's provided just good leadership to our offense," Manning said. "He loves football."

While the Broncos will be trying to keep pace with the Chiefs -- who host the 4-6 San Diego Chargers on Sunday -- the Patriots own a two-game lead in the AFC East despite a controversial 24-20 loss at Carolina on Monday.

Brady was angered by the lack of a penalty call on a Carolina defender on the final play of the game.

Taciturn Pats coach Bill Belichick said his team had moved on.

"Whatever calls they make are the ones that we live with," Belichick said. "We have to turn the page here quickly, get on to Denver. Good football team, playing well. Obviously, their record reflects that."

Week 12 opened Thursday with New Orleans holding off Atlanta 17-13.

The contest looked to be a pivotal NFC South clash when the schedule was released.

But as the Saints have thrived this season, the Falcons, who finished 13-3 in 2012, have struggled and fell to 2-9 with the loss to the 9-2 division leaders.

Saints quarterback Drew Brees passed for 278 yards and two touchdowns. He completed 23-of-33 passes and took his career passing yards to 49,564 -- eclipsing Warren Moon (49,325) for fifth on the NFL all-time list.

Elsewhere on Sunday, expect NFC East rivals Dallas and the New York Giants to pull out all the stops as they close out their regular season series.

After an 0-6 start, the Giants have won four straight and still have a chance of grabbing the division title. Philadelphia, who have a bye this week, top the NFC East at 6-5 and the Cowboys are 5-5.

Other games see Pittsburgh at Cleveland, Tampa Bay at Detroit, Minnesota at Green Bay, Chicago at St. Louis, Carolina at Miami, the New York Jets at Baltimore, Jacksonville at Houston, Tennessee at Oakland, Indianapolis at Arizona and on Monday, San Francisco at Washington.

## Evidence showed A-Rod used legal supplements - lawyer

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Alex Rodriguez's appeal of a 211-game doping ban likely won't be settled until 2014, but his lawyer says there was ample evidence the Yankees slugger used only legal supplements in recent years.

Attorney Joe Tacopina said Friday that Rodriguez and his team presented evidence to arbitrator Fredric Horowitz during a 12-day grievance hearing that was "overwhelming that (Rodriguez) went out of his way to make sure he was taking nutritional supplements. Two, three years of emails that we have."

Rodriguez, a three-time American League Most Valuable Player, has admitted using performance enhancing drugs earlier in his career when Major League Baseball had no viable anti-doping policy.

He was banned an unprecedented 211 games in August for taking performance-enhancing drugs including testosterone and human growth hormone.

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## Briefs :



LOS ANGELES -The Angels traded speedy but often-injured center fielder Peter Bourjos to the St. Louis Cardinals for third baseman David Freese on Friday, freeing up center field for Mike Trout and likely opening a right-field spot for Kole Calhoun.



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The clock is ticking on American Lindsey Vonn's bid to defend her Olympic downhill title as the injured US star officially withdrew Friday from next week's World Cup stop in Beaver Creek. Vonn was due to return to racing at Beaver Creek for the first time since reconstructive surgery of her right knee in the wake of a crash at the world championships in Schladming, Austria, in February. But she crashed on a training run at Colorado's Copper Mountain on Tuesday, and suffered a partial tear of one of her reconstructed knee ligaments.



SAO PAULO (AFP) - Spanish Formula One driver Fernando Alonso powers his Ferrari during the second free practices at the Interlagos racetrack in Sao Paulo, Brazil yesterday, ahead of the Brazilian GP on Sunday.



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## Brazil Taekwondo Foundation begins preparation for end of the year

ORANJESTAD Last Thursday evening a meeting with all members was held at Centro di Bario Barzil.

This meeting of members and volunteers of the Brazil Taekwondo Foundation was to plan their activity for the end of the year. On the 14th of December the Foundation will celebrate the end of the year like every year with lots of goodies. They will present various prizes to the Press and to a few pioneers of Taekwondo. They voted for everything to go as in previous years.

This year they opted to use the large open air space at the Centro di Bario Brazil because of the long list of invitees.



Plans for 2014 are prepared as to what they will be doing differently

During this new year, they have many new goals.

During 2014 they will focus on the 20 year existence of the Brazil Taekwondo Foundation, which is August 18, 2014.

For now they are concentrating on the Christmas dinner for the 14th of December.

*One matter is certain; their calendars must be sold before the end of the year so they can begin paying their debts.*

One such debt is the trip to Suriname on February 7th. As soon as the New Year begins they will begin forming and training a new TK5 team.

## NBA: Thunder beat Clippers in battle of Western powers



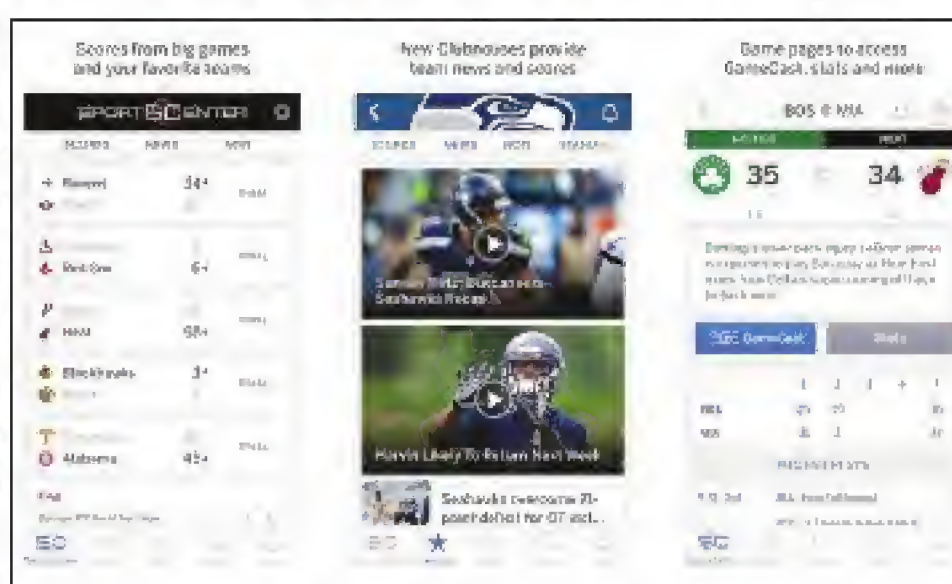
OKLAHOMA CITY (AFP) - Kevin Durant scored 28 points and handed out eight assists Thursday to lead Oklahoma City to a 105-91 win over the Los Angeles Clippers in a battle of NBA Western Conference powers.

Serge Ibaka added 17 points and Russell Westbrook scored 12 for the Thunder, who have won all five of their home games so far this season. Oklahoma City also avenged a 111-103 loss to the Clippers in Los Angeles last week in a game that saw both Matt Barnes of the Clippers and Ibaka of the Thunder ejected after a shoving match in the first half. The Clippers lacked Barnes on Thursday. He needs surgery to repair a tear of the retina in his left eye that he suffered in a loss to Memphis on Monday.

Barnes, who was averaging 5.9 points and 4.3 rebounds per game, is expected to be sidelined for at least a fortnight. Clippers point guard Chris Paul extended his NBA-record streak with at least 10 points and 10 assists to start a season to 13 games. Paul had 17 points and 12 assists but it wasn't enough to prevent the Clippers from dropping their second decision in three games.

## ESPN Releases All-New SportsCenter App

NEW YORK - The worldwide leader in sports announced today that it is rebranding its ScoreCenter app for iOS and Android into an all-new, totally supercharged SportsCenter app that comes with a sleek iOS 7 design scheme to go along with some speed enhancements and a host of other new features. The new SportsCenter app makes it easier than ever to track your favorite teams with the "Clubhouses" feature that brings in content focused for your favorite teams in the NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL, NCAA and more. A new Favorites tab also lets you keep tabs on your teams' scores along with the new Inbox feature that becomes your hub for alerts on personalized news and scores.



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## Baseball: Rangers say Darvish back trouble behind him



ARLINGTON (AFP) - Texas Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish will return to his native Japan with a clean bill of health after an MRI showed inflammation in his back has subsided.

The Rangers said Thursday on their website that the 27-year-old right-hander had an appointment with spine consultant Drew Dossett about the nerve irritation that dogged him late in the 2013 Major League Baseball season.

Darvish finished his second major league campaign with a 13-9 record, 2.83 ERA and a league-best 277 strikeouts in 209 2/3 innings over 32 starts.

He finished second to Detroit Tigers right-hander Max Scherzer in the American League Cy Young Award race, but was hindered with nerve inflammation in his back over the last six weeks of the season.

Darvish's strength and endurance were affected by the problem, and he received an anti-inflammatory injection when the season ended.

The Rangers said Darvish will continue his conditioning "and be able to go through his normal offseason throwing program without any issues."

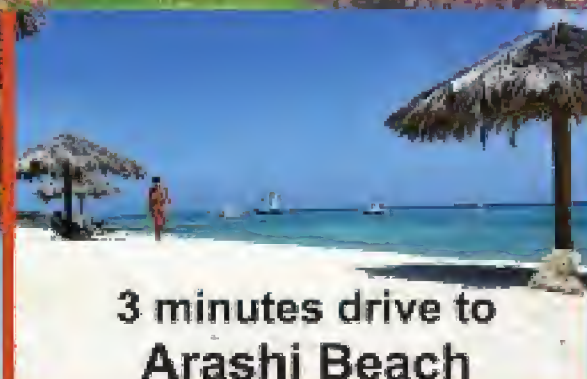
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## Football: Ronaldo not 'obsessed' with Ballon d'Or

MADRID (AFP) - Cristiano Ronaldo has insisted he is not obsessed with winning the Ballon d'Or for a second time in January despite a series of scintillating performances that have made him the strong favourite to win the award.

Ronaldo scored his fifth hat-trick of the season for club and country against Sweden in midweek to ensure Portugal will travel to next year's World Cup in Brazil and take his tally for the campaign to 31 goals in just 21 appearances.

FIFA's decision to extend

the date for votes to be cast for the award from November 15 to November 29 is also expected to weigh heavily in Ronaldo's favour with Barcelona's Lionel Messi, winner of the award for the past four years, sidelined until the end of the year with a hamstring injury.

And the former Manchester United man, who was previously crowned World Player of the Year in 2008, refused to confirm rumours that he was considering not even attending the awards ceremony after re-



acting angrily to comments FIFA president Sepp Blatter made recently about his demeanour on the field.

"I don't think a lot about the Ballon d'Or. I know that it is handed out in January, but I cannot say that I will not go," he told Spanish radio station COPE.

"I prefer to not say anything because things don't depend solely on me. I am not obsessed with the Ballon d'Or. We will see what happens."

However, worryingly for Madrid's rivals, Ronaldo in-

sisted he is focusing on continuing to improve his staggering return of 225 goals in 216 games since joining the club over four years ago.

"In my head I always think I can improve. My ambition is always to be better. Perhaps you reach a level that is hard to beat, but I always think I can improve in everything."

And, having recently signed a new deal with the Spanish giants tying him to the club until 2018, the 28-year-old reiterated his desire to retire as a Madrid player.